time to time to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and export promotional organisations. Measures to promote exports include simplification of Export Import Policy and Procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology up-gradation, easing infrastructural bottlenecks and efforts to involve the State Government in export promotion.

Legislation to Regulate and Develop Off-Shore Mineral Resources

814. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward a legislation to regulate and develop mineral resources in the Territorial Water, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones of India; and

(b) if so, what are its features and by when the legislation will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Mines constituted a Working Group in May, 1993 to suggest a suitable legislation for regulation and development of mineral resources in the territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive economic zones and other maritime zones of India. The Working Group has examined the subject in detail and submitted its Report alongwith a draft of the comprehensive legislation on the subject. The recommended legislation covers interalia provisions for acquiring operating rights for exploration and exploitation besides the provisions for regulation and development of mineral resources in the offshore areas.

Industrial licences for setting up industries in Punjab

815. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial licences issued by Government for establishment of industries as well as small scale industries in the State of Punjab during the period from 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the targets fixed by Government for setting up of new industries in the backward districts of the Punjab State during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The following table shows the number of Industrial Licences issued and small scale industries registered in the State of Punjab during the period 1994-95 and 1995-96:—

Year	No. of Industrial Licences issued	No. of small scale industries registered
1994-95	7	2906
1995-96	6	2679

These Industrial Licences were issued for setting up industries in the districts of Ludhiana, Ropar and Amritsar for the manufacture of items based on textile, transportation, cement and gypsum, sugar, chemical, etc.

(d) No. Central Government for setting up industries in any State or in any backward area of State.

Demand for Pension Scheme by News paper Employees

816. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether newspaper employees are demanding for implementation of a pension scheme in their cases;